

Thanksgiving greetings to our Thacher Community. I hope this note finds you giving thanks for your wonderful family and friends and for the bounty of a nourishing meal. As we are all gathering with loved ones in the comfort of our homes or theirs, let us remember to keep in our thoughts the people, pets, wildlife and environment ravaged by the devastating fires in California, families in Lawrence and Andover who still do not have heat or hot water in their homes, the displaced refugees around the world, and the native people who came before us.

As you think of all that you have to be thankful for in your life, here are some things that I am thankful to have in my life.

- I am fortunate to be surrounded by a dedicated, fun staff
- A diversity of parents and children who are embracing our Montessori philosophy, growing and learning with us
- A board of trustees who give generously of their time in helping to build a strong, vibrant Thacher.
- Our founder who gave us her vision

We are all so thankful for our children and the joy they bring to us each and every day. I want to wish everyone a very safe and happy Thanksgiving break and leave you with this poem by Khalil Gibran.

*Your children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you.  
And though they are with you, they belong not to you.  
You may give them your love but not your thoughts.  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,  
Which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.  
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are set forth.  
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite.  
And He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.  
Let your bending in the archer's hands be for happiness;  
For even as He loves the arrow that flies,  
So He loves the bow that is stable.*

--Khalil Gibran

I look forward to welcoming everyone back next week.

Warmly, Deba